

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 00436 041302Z
ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CCO-00 OPR-02 A-01 PER-01 /019 W
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FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9458

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0436

ACCRA FOR RCO FROM CRO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ACOM, PFOR, DM
SUBJ: COMMUNICATIONS MATTERS

REF: A. ACCRA 1595 B. BARLOW-TINKER RADCON 3/4

1. GPRB ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT ALL FOREIGNERS, TECHNICIANS, AND INCLUDING THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, COULD NOT LEAVE CITY LIMITS OF COTONOU WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. UNTIL WE GET CLARIFICATION THIS MATTER, CRO CANNOT LEAVE TOWN. ROADBLOCKS STILL IN EFFECT, AND I WOULD ADVISE TINKER NOT HAND CARRY RADIO EQUIPMENT THRU BENIN UNLESS HE MUST. WOULD SUGGEST POUCH, AS I DO NOT BELIEVE POUCHES WILL BE TAMPERED WITH. TOGO-BENIN BORDER REMAINS CLOSED, AND FYI OUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER WAS TURNED BACK AT BENIN BORDER TWO DAYS AGO BY UNFRIENDLY BORDER GUARD WHO DISPLAYED ANTI-AMERICAN SYMPATHIES. BENINESE, AND IN SOME CASES, WHITES, ARE CROSSING BORDER, BUT IF SITUATION DOES NOT CHANGE SUGGEST TINKER EITHER FLY IN (IN WHICH CASE THEY WILL SEARCH ALL HIS BAGGAGE) OR POSTPONE TRIP UNTIL THE BORDER AND INTERNAL SITUATIONS NORMALIZE.

2. THE INSTALLATIONS IN THE TWO OFFICIAL VEHICLES WILL BE PERMANENT. WE CAN RE-ASSESS OUR NEEDS FOR THESE TWO PIECES

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SHOULD YOUR OFFICE HAVE DIFFICULTY IN SUPPLYING THEM. PRIMARY REASON FOR THEIR NEED AT THIS TIME IS ANY CONVOY ACTION, AND ONLY THEN AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE. WE COULD, IN THEORY, USE HN-36'S AND GUTTER MOUNTS BUT WOULD PREFER AT LEAST DISGUISED ANTENNA. PERHAPS WE COULD USE PERMANENT CONCEALED ANTENNA MOUNTING, AND HN-36'S IN THE CARS. RADIOS WOULD NORMALLY BE USED WITHIN CITY LIMITS OF COTONOU.

3. I HAVE SUGGESTED TO CHARGE THAT HE INFO YOUR OFFICE ON FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS FROM COTONOU RELATING TO TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, AND INTERNAL MEASURES FOR THE TIME BEING. YOU SHOULD BE RECEIVING TODAY SOME REPORTING FROM EMBASSY. ALSO BE ADVISED THAT GPRB REQUIRES ALL VISITORS BE REPORTED, AND THAT THEY STAY IN HOTEL, OR SOME HOUSE USUALLY USED FOR VISITORS. IN THIS CASE, I WILL HOUSE TINKER WITH US RATHER THAN PUTTING HIM IN HOTEL. COM VEHICLE WILL BE AVAILABLE WHEN HE WISHES FOR INSTALLATION, AND WE CAN DO THAT AT MY HOUSE FOR PRIVACY REASONS.

4. THANKS FOR THE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT.
THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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